



MID YEAR 2024 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the SAAGH President



Greetings on behalf of the Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH) [Board of Directors](#). I am delighted to be writing my first President's message and thankful to Steve Paul for guiding this wonderful organization through the many challenges and opportunities we have faced over the past five years. I am especially grateful that Steve has elected to stay on as Executive Vice President. I'd also like to note that Jimmie Isaac has elected to step down from the Board. Many of you know Jimmie for his coordination of the annual barbecue and work at the golf outings. I'd like to thank Jimmie for his 8 years of service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Here is a little bit about me. Originally from Chicago, I started my Shell career in New Orleans in 1981 and spent the first ten years in various Engineering roles in NOLA, Houston, and Michigan. After a head office assignment, I moved into engineering and operations management, with positions in various locations, including the Deepwater Projects group. I was then asked to take a position as General Manager – Shell Global Solutions and Global Discipline Head for Pipelines, Flow Assurance, and Subsea. The latter was a position with global purview that I thoroughly enjoyed. In my final role, I held the position of Chief Engineer for Royal Dutch Shell. I vigorously raised my hand for voluntary severance during the midst of COVID-19 in October 2020 and joined the SAAGH Board shortly thereafter.

My goals for SAAGH are simple – don't fix what isn't broken! The Board has done a wonderful job steering this organization through the COVID pandemic and increasing its sponsorship of events and activities to appeal to a wide range of interests. New challenges exist however, including maintaining healthy membership levels (more on that later), increasing our participation in Volunteer activities, and continuing our positive relationship with Shell USA. In addition, I am convinced that all our members need a basic understanding of how to navigate today's online world, with both its substantial benefits and formidable risks. Later in this newsletter, you will see the results of our member and non-member survey. We commit to you that we will address the improvement opportunities you offered in your feedback to make this an even better organization.

Already in 2024, your Board has sponsored seventeen events, including the Spring Luncheon and the Golf outing, theater and museum events, soccer and baseball games, a cooking class, a bus trip to the Painted Churches, and educational seminars. We also participated in the Shell volunteer's MLK Day of Service. Most recently, we sponsored a highly informative cybersecurity session led by James Morrison, an ex-FBI cyber computer scientist. The second half of 2024 will be even busier. You can see a list of our upcoming events [here](#). We will also be participating in the Mayor's Back to School Activities in July and August.

We have recently updated our [membership](#) criteria to better fit the description of a Shell alumnus in today's business environment. Rather than describe our members as just Shell "pensioners", we will welcome all former Shell employees, age 50+, who have worked for Shell or any Shell affiliate company in the greater Houston area, or spouses/partners of deceased members. Dues remain a very affordable \$10 and help your 100% volunteer board of directors manage the activities of our successful 501 (c) (4) non-profit organization.

We continue to have a strong relationship with Shell USA. This year we continued our support of the Shell MS-150 cycling club, which sponsored 32 riders and raised over \$85K. We are actively collaborating with the Shell Foundation to identify additional volunteer opportunities. This year, Barbara Stoyko (SVP – Mobility) will be joining us at our Fall Luncheon and General Meeting.

We also reinitiated our participation in the Shell retirement planning seminars to describe what SAAGH is all about and invite folks to join. Along those lines – **we need your help!** New members are the lifeblood of this organization. Our goal is to maintain our membership at around ~1000. This year, due to privacy and cost concerns, we were unable to arrange the annual mailing to current and recent retirees in the Houston area. This means that one of our main solicitation channels will be through **you – current members who have friends and colleagues employed at Shell**. While the recent ramp-up in retirement seminars will help, we need your support to keep this a vibrant and successful organization. Feel free to share the [membership](#) sign-up page and offer testimonials about the value you get from SAAGH.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at one of our 2024 activities and wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Luis Cosme, SAAGH President

Director Spotlight – Mike Alvarez, SAAGH Vice President - Volunteer Affairs



Employed by Shell for 38 years, Michael J. Alvarez held various assignments in Administrative Services, Supply Chain Management and Corporate Affairs/Human Resources. Mike's last assignment was Shell's Corporate Workforce Development Initiative Manager responsible for developing and driving strategies to strengthen Shell's talent pipeline for process technology, engineering, and geosciences disciplines. He was responsible for developing integrated education initiatives and leveraging university recruitment programs and business funded research projects for Shell US Enterprises. He also provided professional coaching, mentoring and career development expertise to high school students, college students/graduates and corporate professionals, enhancing their opportunities for success in the workforce. He also served in an advisory capacity to Shell business units, field sites and Shell entities regarding education investments.

Other assignments over those years included managing contracts for products and services in support of various Shell Exploration and Production Business Segments and Global Operations. He was a member of the Upstream Contracting and Procurement Leadership Team, responsible for performance management and procurement operation activities. Mike then became the Manager in Shell's

Corporate Supplier Diversity and Diversity Outreach Office, responsible for developing strategies that provided business opportunities for diverse suppliers and managed community outreach programs with national diversity organizations.

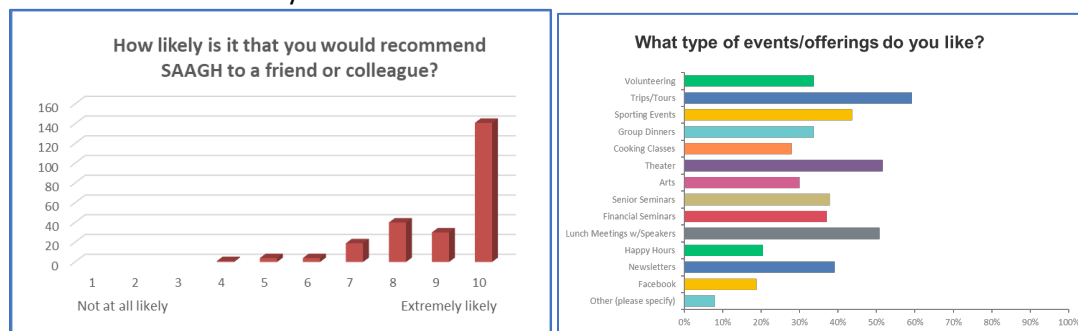
Mike has been very involved in the community, serving on the Louisiana Minority Development Council Board for 6 years and as Chairman for 3 years, serving on various committees with the Louisiana Minority Development Council, Houston Minority Development Council, Women's Business Enterprise Alliance and United Negro College Fund Houston Branch. He has served on the advisory board with the LULAC National Educational Service Centers and served in an advisory role with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Louisiana State University Diversity Advisory Board, University of Michigan Diversity Advisory Board and Houston United Negro College Fund Leadership Council.

Mike is a native of New Orleans and graduated from Southern University at New Orleans with a BS in Business Administration. In addition to having a consulting firm he and his wife have been owners of a UPS Store Franchise in Pearland, TX for 17 years. He is currently a member of The Bunch Club in New Orleans and resides in Missouri City, Texas with his family.

SAAGH Member Survey

Thank you all for the strong participation and insightful feedback through our recent membership survey. We had 243 members, and another 135 former members complete the survey. Your Board is actively digesting the input and determining how to incorporate in making our Alumni group ever more interesting and enjoyable for all our members. And above all, thank you for all the supportive and appreciative comments regarding our ongoing efforts towards fun and fellowship!

Here are some summary results:



You also provided some very interesting new event suggestions, like a fishing trip or skeet shooting, that we will be looking to possibly include in next year's program.

As to feedback themes, the largest area of comments seems to be around traveling distance or health as being barriers to event attendance and so also membership. We also apparently have quite a number of members outside of the Houston area – so the question becomes how might we best serve all?

Solutions we will be pursuing:

- More virtual zoom events, particularly for things like financial seminars or senior living events that can lend themselves to being done online. We learned how to host virtual events during COVID, why not bring more of that back for participation from anywhere?

- Revisiting the geographic distribution of events, particularly in North Houston area where many of the former Northwest Club members live. We will also look into transportation options such as the free bus service from the northwest that had previously been provided to Astros games and other events.

There were a number of comments as well on the use of PayPal, and we have tried to address them directly elsewhere in this newsletter.

You provided a wealth of other insights and suggestions as well, thank you, and we will be onboarding all that we can. As always, we welcome your input on how we can make SAAGH better, keep them coming at any time.

Our favorite comment from one participant on what changes could be made to make SAAGH more interesting was "Give me back my youth"! Your Board wholeheartedly endorses that sentiment! 🤔

PayPal

Several of you have described frustration with the PayPal payment process for Membership and Events payments. Specifically, many members are not aware that you can choose to pay with a credit card without creating a PayPal account. PayPal provides you with a very secure online payout experience, with or without a PayPal account.

While we work on a smoother payment process to make credit card payments easier while maintaining a secure site, we have prepared these [guidelines](#) to help you navigate the PayPal screens. Feel free to contact us at treasurer@saagh.com if you encounter difficulties not covered in the guidelines.

PayPal disputes – PLEASE DON'T!

We have recently had a few cases where members inadvertently purchased more tickets than they intended or created an undesired PayPal account because they missed a screen option. They then filed a dispute with PayPal to remove the charges. If this happens to you, please contact SAAGH directly at treasurer@saagh.com for a refund or help canceling the PayPal account. PLEASE DO NOT file a dispute, as this creates substantial work for us. We also incur service charges to resolve within the PayPal system.

No-Shows Hurt Our Reputation and Cause Others to Miss Out!

Regarding the cyber-security session on May 29, about 100 people signed up for this “free” educational session. We had to stop accepting sign-ups because the venue was full. We sent two reminders asking members to confirm attendance and several declined as a result. However, we had another 25 members who were *no-shows*. As a result, only 55 people attended the session, significantly less than we initially advertised to all involved.

Please be considerate of your fellow members and the people volunteering time and effort to coordinate these events. Just because something is free to us does not mean costs aren't incurred. The Traditions provided their meeting room free of charge and hired valets to park our cars. The external

event coordinator arranged for the speaker and advised him how many people to expect. We can do better!

IT Support – HELP WANTED!

As you can hopefully appreciate by taking a glance at our [website](#) and [Events](#) pages, it takes a bit of effort to keep our materials current. This work is done by a few “gifted amateurs” on our Board. We have so far avoided paying for professional software development support to stretch our limited funds as far as we can. To this end, we would appreciate a SAAGH member with web development and/or coding experience to help us with some modernization activities, especially the aforementioned PayPal credit card payment process. Please contact any of our board members if you can help! Board membership is not required. SAAGH Board information is [here](#).

Shell Offshore Pioneers Reunion

The 2024 Shell Offshore Pioneer's Reunion held in Galveston in April had over 180 attendees and was, by every measure, a tremendous success. The changes and new activities based on prior feedback were big hits, including Monday's social with appetizers, Tuesday's afternoon's story telling session by Mike Forrest, Dan Godfrey, Driller Bob Smith and Rich Patterozzi, and Wednesday's golf tournament.

Shell Management was prominent at the event, including speakers, Rich Howe, Bill Langin and selected members of their staff. For additional information on the Shell Offshore Pioneers group and events please visit their website at www.shelloffshorepioneers.com.



Volunteer Update

The SAAGH Board would like to welcome Michael Alvarez as the new VP for the SAAGH Volunteer Affairs Committee. We look forward to his leadership in this capacity and are excited about the continued collaboration with Shell and their partner organizations regarding volunteer activities in the community. The SAAGH Board would also like to thank John Bowser for his dedication, commitment, and leadership of the Volunteer Affairs Committee over the past several years. John will still remain involved by supporting Mike in his efforts and continuing as the SAAGH Facebook platform focal point.

The Shell Alumni Association of Greater Houston (SAAGH) has historically supported Shell's community outreach activities by collaborating with designated focal points to publish the current year calendar and solicit participation from our nearly 1000 members. Since its inception, SAAGH has partnered with Shell to ensure that our members participate in community service efforts with approved Shell partners and volunteer events. The SAAGH Board believes that our large membership can be leveraged more to positively impact Shell's presence, brand, and reputation in the community. To address this

observation, The SAAGH Volunteer Affairs Committee will be meeting with Shell Leadership to discuss opportunities to expand the community service volunteer activities in the future.

This year Shell Representatives have identified three community service volunteer events:

- **Shell's MLK Day of Service** was held on January 15th at the Houston Food Bank. A total of 190 volunteers between two shifts, 4,050 backpacks were compiled which resulted in 38,080 meals!!! Although the day was hampered by adverse weather conditions and schedule changes, retirees and guests accounted for approximately 10-15% of the total volunteers.
- **Mayor's Back to School Fest** is scheduled for July (date to be determined). The volunteer event is two days of service to register families and distribute backpacks to students for the new school year.
- **UNCF Walk for Education** is scheduled for September 14th. The volunteer event is a 5k walk/run activity on a Saturday that raises scholarship funds for students in need.
- **Operation Stocking Stuffer** is scheduled for December 11th through 14th. The volunteer event is three days of service to support packing and distribution of toys to students in the community.

These events are published on the SAAGH website, SAAGH will also provide notification of the events and registration details in advance of the events for members.

Shell Hero Matching

Recently, a discussion came about regarding what gifts are eligible for matching, particularly Donor Advised Funds (DAFs). The [guidelines](#) describe that DAFs are not eligible for matching: Gifts made by or through Community Trusts or similar organizations, including Charitable Remainder Trusts, Donor Advised Funds, or Private/Family Foundations. To learn more about the Shell HERO program click [here](#).

Events and Milestones

The newsletter now includes "special events" such as a major milestone wedding anniversary and things like a golf "hole in one". If you have a special event that you would like included in the newsletter, email membership@saagh.com.

Upcoming SAAGH Events

Upcoming SAAGH events are on the SAAGH website on the [Event](#) tab.

In Sympathy

We are saddened at the passing of the following Shell colleagues:

John Anderson 4/2/31 – 6/11/2023. No obituary online.

Ray Ayers 10/31/40 - 05/04/2024. [Obituary](#).

Larry Beron [Obituary](#).

Andre Blaauw. No obituary online.

John David Bradford 10/19/49 – 6/11/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Harold Bostick 04/01/34 - 06/18/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Beverly Bowen 11/26/39 -5/31/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Clifford Brown 9/2/31 – 11/7/2023. [Obituary.](#)
Janice Bryant 10/23/50 – 12/24/23. [Obituary.](#)
Velva Cooper 05/17/42 - 03/05/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Ed Creamer 12/04/31 - 01/08/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Paul “Dick” Edinger 01/14/28 - 03/14/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Laura Facciponte 7/5/45 – 5/15/2023. [Obituary.](#)
John Fontenot 7/18/34 – 6/1/2023. [Obituary.](#)
Robert Paul Guibault, Jr. 6/2/46 – 4/18/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Richard Haydock 6/12/2023. [Obituary.](#)
Peter Hughes 03/08/35 - 02/01/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Robert Hughes 12/19/41-11/05/23. [Obituary.](#)
Alcee Jones 03/08/47 - 12/16/23. [Obituary.](#)
Jim Keblinger 08/30/32 - 02/05/24. [Obituary.](#)
Joseph Wilfred Kimmel 03/08/43 - 01/19/24. [Obituary.](#)
Owen Kriegel 12/18/42 - 02/26/24. [Obituary.](#)
Shirley Lamb 10/10/41 - 11/06/23. [Obituary.](#)
Walter Landeck. 4/15/31 – 12/21/2023. [Obituary.](#)
Russell Lollar 4/15/46 – 12/12/2024. [Obituary.](#)
James Alfred Miller. 12/15/31 – 6/15/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Evelyn Mitchell 07/13/25 - 03/30/24. [Obituary.](#)
Benny Paul Mitschke 6/19/38 – 5/10/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Bobby Montie 8/14/39 – 09/09/2023. [Obituary.](#)
Chuck Moseman passed 03/16/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Steve Norton 7/25/51 – 2/23/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Cindy Ory 10/31/49 – 6/16/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Thomas Peery 06/12/44 -03/08/24. [Obituary.](#)
Marie Peery 10/03/48 - 02/11/24. [Obituary.](#)
Robert “Bobby” Pearce 7/27/51 – 1/24/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Edward Picou 03/26/32 - 01/30/24. [Obituary.](#)
Norman Prasatik 01/21/33 - 08/31/23. [Obituary.](#)
Dr. Peter Rhodes 07/08/37 - 03/22/24. [Obituary.](#)
Frank Richardson 3/25/33 – 11/07/2023. [Obituary.](#)
Jay Smith 04/04/50 - 02/01/24. [Obituary.](#)
Terry Stinson 11/06/54 - 11/24/23. [Obituary.](#)
Clifford Swanlund. 01/29/32 - 03/12/24. [Obituary.](#)
Don E Treat 8/19/39 – 4/3/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Fred Tuckerson 09/07/45 - 12/12/23. [Obituary.](#)
Gary Wainwright. No obituary online.
Fern White 7/18/27 – 1/10/2024. [Obituary.](#)
Kenneth O. Williams 07/09/32 - 01/31/24. [Obituary.](#)
David Worley 02/05/24. [Obituary.](#)
David Worthington 08/27/42 -02/01/24. [Obituary.](#)

If you would like to inform the Shell Alumni about the passing of a loved one or colleague, either post on the Shell Alumni of Greater Houston Facebook page or mail membership@saagh.com. To access the SAAGH Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239750502884880>

Respectfully,
Your SAAGH Board of Directors